

**INTER-ISLAND FERRY**
Authority

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FAX

TO: Mr. Eric Taylor, Project Manager
FROM: Bruce R. Jones, General Manager

FAX: 907-465-6984

PAGES: 3

DATE: January 7, 2008

Hard copy to follow.

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January 7, 2008

Mr. Eric Taylor, Project Manager
Alaska Dept. of Transportation
Division of Program Management
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2505

RE: Comments on the Draft Alaska Statewide Long-Range Transportation Policy Plan

Dear Mr. Taylor,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft of the referenced plan. We almost missed the opportunity, and would have, had it not been for the diligence of the staff at Southeast Conference. We requested at the outset to be kept informed as the development of the plan moved forward, but received nothing until Southeast Conference provided us a copy. As a public transportation provider we should have been at the table during the drafting of the plan. I hope my brief comments on the plan will be reasonably considered for inclusion in the final document.

After reviewing the draft plan numerous times I became very frustrated over the fact that the Inter-Island Ferry Authority was left out of the document entirely. Despite the fact that on page two it states, *"Developing this plan involved careful technical analysis, policy deliberation, and the active involvement of transportation providers and users throughout Alaska. Together we evaluated needs, established strategic priorities, and defined strategies and implementing actions. The plan addresses the State's responsibilities as the owner and operator of highways, bridges, airports, and ferries, and it's supporting role in directing funding to public transportation system operators and local units of government for their transportation infrastructure. These responsibilities are: Maintenance and operations, preserving the government's investment in transportation facilities, and the further development of the system."*, we were not consulted or asked to participate. My concern is that if we are not mentioned in this document, any future funding for the IFA will be jeopardized. Furthermore, without the IFA being mentioned in the Policy Plan there will be no need to include the IFA in any supporting regional planning document.

Here at the IFA we do not consider ourselves as rivals of the Alaska Marine Highway System, but as another public transportation provider that is complimentary to the AMHS. Our services, if incorporated into the AMHS schedule and planning, would be mutually beneficial in terms of

increasing revenues and cost effectiveness. Please consider including the IFA in this planning document as part of the solution to the plan's mandate to develop a comprehensive, intermodal, long-range transportation plan for the State.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at my office, (907)826-4848, extension 26.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce R. Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce R. Jones, CPM
General Manager